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(Introduction) Thank you committee members and chair for this opportunity to speak against bill HB 5334. I understand that this bill uses energy and technology to appeal to this committee. But, there are several underlying issues that need to be focused on. These issues will provide evidence and reasons why this bill should NOT be approved:

1. First there is a perception that this bill will not hurt existing compost sites. This is wrong. Yard waste is our inventory. Without yard waste there is no finished product. Therefore, the 1.1 million cubic yards of yard waste, translates into 275,000 cubic yards of finished compost; which leads to conservative 2.7 million dollars in revenue just from the finished compost.
2. 2.7 million tax-able dollars. These dollars provide funding for the countless other bills that you vote on every day. This money does not belong laying in the landfills.
3. This money also is helping to provide unemployment benefits to the 15.3% unemployed workers in Michigan. The compost industry is strong and gives us the opportunity to hire Michigan workers, which again provides more taxable dollars. Please don't force us to down size or close our doors, this would only increase the problem of an unstable economy.
4. Plus, it's not just us. We provide business and business opportunities to those that can use our product. Keep in mind the popularity of organic grown food. Our compost is a critical soil supplement that replaces fertilizers.
5. If passed, please also consider the impact and message this sends to Michigan residents. Is our state unwilling to support recycling efforts, by allowing these natural resources in the landfill?
6. Keep in mind that the main desire of these landfill owners is to receive carbon... the leaves. Leaves mainly fall in the month of November. This means that one area of the landfill will be saturated with this organic material. This material is not spread out evenly, and therefore will NOT cause the desired release of methane gas throughout the year for non-recycled material. In fact, because it is NOT spread evenly, landfills will once again have significant issues with voids and with land settling. This was one of the reasons why the law took effect nearly 20 years ago. Don't go backwards...
7. PLUS, landfills do not get the same amount of natural reduction. Managed at a compost site, yard waste can reduce to a quarter of its original size. In the landfill, the 1.1 million cubic yards will become mummified, resulting in the landfills filling up and closing earlier than expected.

Let me be very clear: Yard waste does NOT belong in landfills. The compost industry should not be eliminated from Michigan small business. And, LASTLY the intent of the "RENEWABLE ENERGY BILL" was not to create more waste.